



DARPA Urban Challenge

Frequently Asked Questions

Program Announcement

May 3, 2006

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1. What is the goal of the Urban Challenge program?

Unmanned ground vehicles must be able to safely operate and maneuver in the presence of other moving vehicles to realize their potential to revolutionize military ground operations. The Urban Challenge will accelerate progress in this area through the demonstration of autonomous unmanned ground vehicles driving safely in a mock urban area with other moving vehicular traffic.

2. What is the qualification process? What are Tracks A and B?

Each participant in the Urban Challenge will qualify on one of two tracks.

On Track A, teams submit proposals under BAA 06-36, a DARPA Broad Area Announcement for the Urban Challenge Program, to receive technology development awards of up to \$1,000,000. Guidelines for participation are available in the Proposal Information Package (PIP), at www.darpa.mil/baa. DARPA will evaluate the proposals using the procedures described in the BAA and PIP and reserves the right to select all, some, or none for award. Teams selected will be tested at four milestones to ensure adequate progress for continuation in the program. Milestone completion will be determined using the exit criteria detailed in the PIP. The vehicle demonstrations for Milestones 3 and 4 will take place at the National Qualification Event (NQE). Teams that successfully complete Milestone 4 will attempt the Urban Challenge final event on November 3, 2007. Teams that submit a proposal under BAA 06-36 but are not selected may enter Track B by submitting an application before October 5, 2006.

On Track B, as in Grand Challenge 2005, teams submit an application and demonstration video and participate in two preliminary events, the site visit and NQE, to qualify for the Urban Challenge final event. The 5-minute demonstration video will be evaluated using standardized criteria to select teams for site visits. At the site visits, the vehicles will be tested using a set of technical criteria and DARPA will select teams for invitation to NQE as Urban Challenge semi-finalists. Semi-finalists will receive a \$50,000 cash award if they compete at NQE. At NQE, semi-finalists will be evaluated against a more challenging set of criteria and DARPA will select teams as Urban Challenge finalists. Finalists will be invited to participate in the Urban Challenge final event and will receive a \$100,000 award if they compete in this event.

As shown in the Figure 1 below, Tracks A and B come together at NQE where all teams will compete on an equal footing. The same evaluation criteria will be used on both tracks.

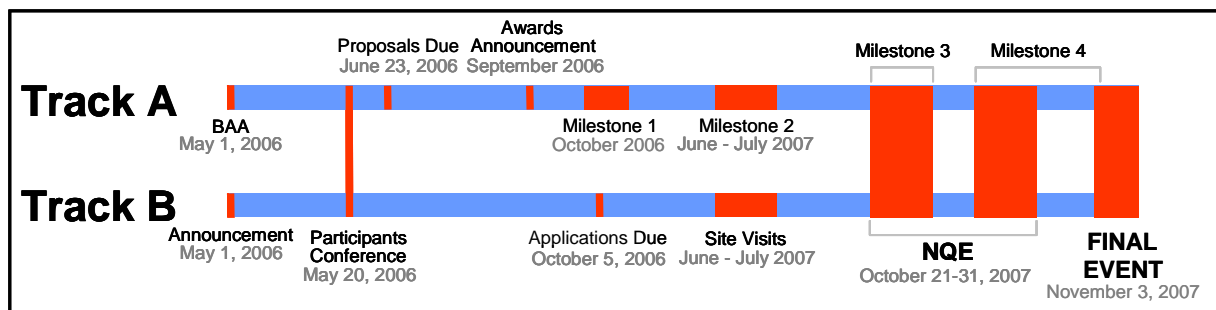


Figure 1 Relationship between Tracks A and B.

3. What are the eligibility requirements?

An organization may field one team, and that team may participate on one track only. Each team leader must be a U.S. citizen. This individual must be at least 21 years of age on the date the application or proposal is signed. The use of Government assets or resources is not restricted for the development or testing of the vehicle. Teams from outside the United States may participate provided they meet all eligibility requirements.

Guidelines for participation on Track A are available in the Proposal Information Package (PIP), at www.darpa.mil/baa. Guidelines and rules for participation on Track B will be released prior to the Participants Conference on May 20, 2006, where additional information regarding the program will be discussed.

4. Where and when will the Urban Challenge take place?

The Urban Challenge final event will take place on Saturday, November 3, 2007 at a location in the western United States. The exact location will be announced before NQE.

NQE will take place October 21-31, 2007, prior to the Urban Challenge final event. The location is to be announced.

5. What are the prizes?

Teams from either track can win \$2 million, \$500,000, or \$250,000 for first, second, or third place respectively at the Urban Challenge final event.

A team from Track B will be awarded \$50,000 if it qualifies as a semi-finalist (selected for NQE) and \$100,000 if it qualifies as a finalist (selected for the Urban Challenge final event).

6. What are the options on Track A?

BAA 06-36 and the PIP describe the format and instructions for submission of a Track A proposal for funds to develop an autonomous vehicle for the Urban Challenge. Proposals must stipulate either an Other Transaction (OT) agreement or a Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) contract. Figure 2 further illustrates the participation process.

The OT format is applicable only if a significant proportion of the contracted effort is performed by a nontraditional contractor, or the proposer contributes at least 33% of the award funds in a

cost-share relationship with the Government. The use of an OT may offer flexibility in negotiating the terms of the agreement. A sample agreement is provided with the PIP.

A FAR contract may be stipulated by any proposer without restriction. FAR contracts may require more detailed cost-accounting and offer less contractual flexibility.

In all cases, the BAA and PIP take precedence over this document.

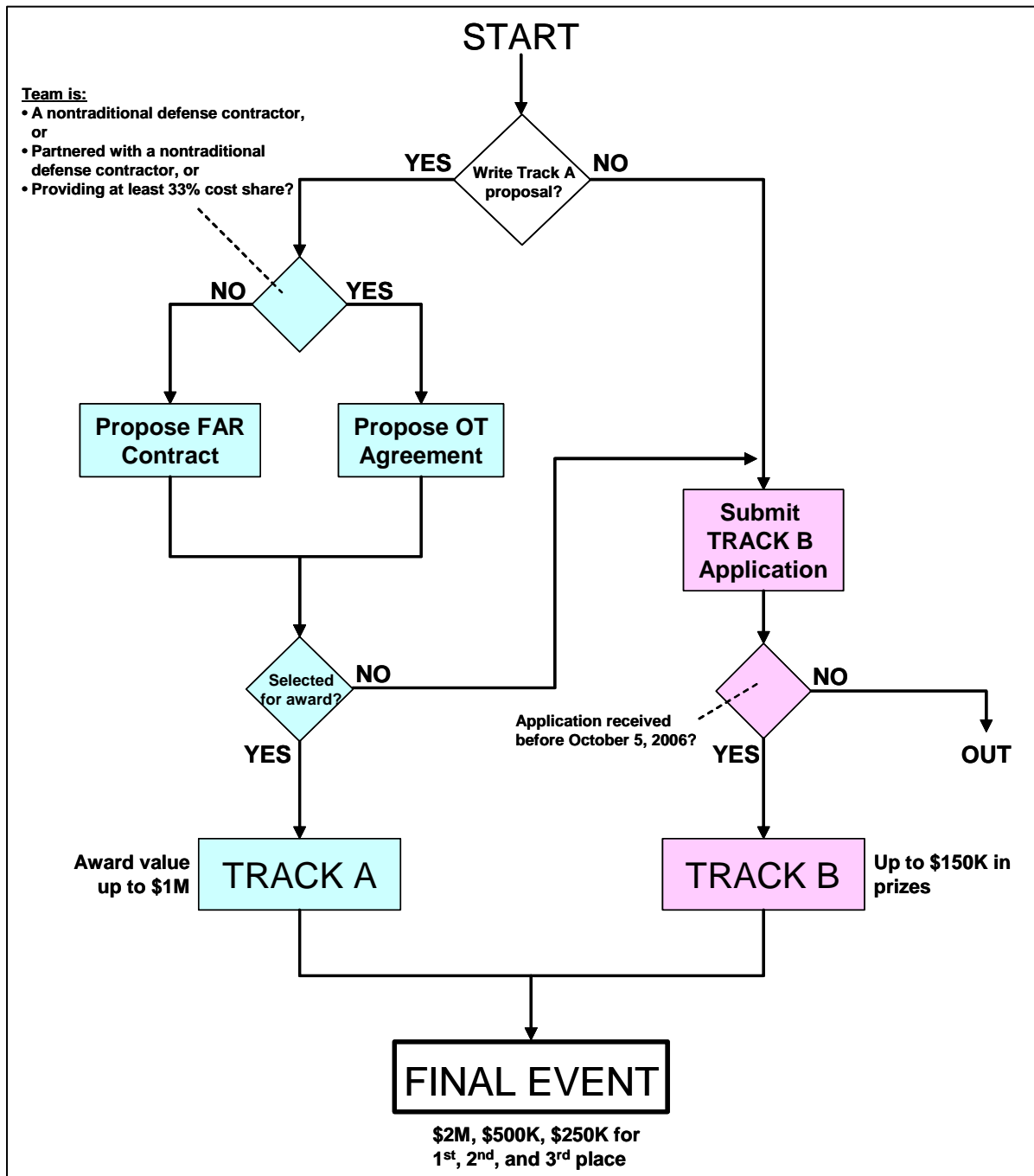


Figure 2 Urban Challenge Participation Options